

## SIX THINKING HATS

We spent several days reading and learning about Six Thinking Hats by Edward DeBono. Please answer the questions below as our “test” on this unit. Please answer the questions below using a deep thought process.

**WHITE HAT**--focuses on available data (facts and figures) while remaining neutral. Participants are encouraged to review existing information, search for gaps in knowledge, analyze past trends, and extrapolate key learnings from historical data.

1. Give two examples of how you have used the “White Hat” in your lifetime and explain in detail.

**RED HAT**--uses intuition, gut reaction, and robust emotion. Encourages participants to think about how other people will react emotionally and try to understand the responses of people who do not fully know your reasoning. Participants do not need to explain or justify individual expressions of feelings.

2. Would you enjoy working on a group project with all “Red Hat” thinkers? What would get accomplished in your group? Explain in detail.

**BLACK HAT**--is the basis of logical, critical thinking offering careful, cautious, and defensive insights. Try to see what is wrong; why it might not work; what are the dangers, problems, and obstacles; what the deficiencies are in the thinking process. It allows you to eliminate the negatives, alter plans, or prepare contingency plans to counter any problems.

3. Who is someone in your life that is a “Black Hat” thinker the majority of the time? Why do you think they are this way? Give one example where you were the “Black Hat” thinker and explain why you wore this “hat”.

**YELLOW HAT**--is a deliberate search for the positive (optimistic viewpoint) through exploration and speculation defining the benefits of the decision and the value in it. Yellow Hat thinking is constructive blending “curiosity, pleasure, greed, and the desire to make things happen” enhancing the proposal by generating alternative ideas “based on experience, available information, logical deduction, hints, trends, guesses, and hopes”

4. Is it easy or difficult for you to wear a “Yellow Hat”? Explain. Give two examples to teachers/admin/counselors in the building that wear a “Yellow Hat” often and explain how that impacts others around them.

**GREEN HAT**--stands for energy and creativity. This is where you generate new, innovative ideas and develop creative solutions to a problem. It is freewheeling way of thinking in which there is little criticism of ideas, and “movement” is made using provocation to move “forward with an idea or from an idea” (125) seeking alternative solutions. Green Hat thinking must involve shaping the idea for the user or “buyer”.

5. Put on your “Green Hat” and pretend that you are the principal of XYZ High School. Provide at least four changes you would make that would directly impact XYZ HS students and increase their chances for success after graduation.

**BLUE HAT**--is process control “thinking about thinking”. This is the hat worn by people chairing or facilitating the session. Blue Hat may be used at the beginning of the session to set the agenda or the sequence for using the “hats” and at the end of the session when seeking a summary and next steps. Blue Hat focuses on questioning and provides the structure for use of other hats and other thinking/problem-solving tools.

6. In your years at XYZ High School, which teacher/admin/counselor has used or uses the “Blue Hat” most efficiently? Why do you believe this? What strategies do they use? Explain in detail.

## **OVERALL**

7. Why do you think that Fortune 500 companies like Microsoft, NASA, DuPont, BP, and Federal Express use the Six Thinking Hats way of thinking in their companies?